

House Resolution

No. 74

Introduced by Assembly Member Wesson

July 16, 2002

House Resolution No. 74—Relative to commending the Honorable Louis J. Papan.

1 WHEREAS, The tenure of the Honorable Louis J. Papan with
2 the California State Assembly is drawing to a close following 20
3 years of exemplary service, and it is appropriate at this time to
4 highlight the many achievements of his illustrious tenure and to
5 extend to him the highest commendations of the people of the
6 state; and

7 WHEREAS, Lou Papan has a distinguished career of public
8 service; he was first elected to the California State Assembly in
9 1972 where he served until 1986, during which time he served as
10 Speaker Pro Tempore from 1974 to 1976 and chaired the
11 Assembly Rules Committee from 1976 to 1986 where he oversaw
12 the restoration of the State Capitol, a six-year project that was
13 completed on budget and on time; and

14 WHEREAS, After leaving office in 1986 he returned to the
15 California State Assembly in 1996, representing the 19th District,
16 and was reelected in 1998 and again on November 7, 2000, a
17 victory with over 70 percent of the vote, that marked the beginning
18 of his tenth career term in the California State Legislature, and
19 with 20 years as a Member of the California State Legislature, he
20 is the Dean of the Assembly; and

21 WHEREAS, Assembly Member Papan currently brings credit
22 to himself as Chair of the Assembly Banking and Finance

1 Committee and also as a member of the Assembly Appropriations,
2 Utilities and Commerce, and Budget Committees; and

3 WHEREAS, Over the past four years, he has continued his work
4 as a champion of children, workers' rights, and families; and

5 WHEREAS, In 2000 he authored legislation to establish and
6 support child care centers for families with business before the
7 courts, and the measure, Assembly Bill 177, allows counties to
8 charge \$2 to \$5 as part of the initial filing fee for cases in civil court
9 to fund the operation of children's waiting rooms; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1999 Assembly Member Papan was named
11 Legislator of the Year by the California State Firefighters
12 Association for his continued commitment to promote and protect
13 the best interests of firefighters and to improve the fire service; in
14 October 2000, Assembly Bill 539, authored by Assembly Member
15 Papan and signed by the Governor, established far reaching health
16 and workers' compensation protection for firefighters; and

17 WHEREAS, As Chair of the Assembly Banking and Finance
18 Committee he spearheaded the effort to support independent
19 banking institutions, and Assembly Member Papan is also the
20 author of legislation amending the state's escrow laws to allow
21 Internet-based escrow companies to conduct e-business; and

22 WHEREAS, Assembly Member Papan's legislative
23 achievements include laws significantly reforming California's
24 banking and insurance industries, and he has also authored
25 legislation ensuring the viability and professional management of
26 the huge California public employees and state teachers retirement
27 systems; and

28 WHEREAS, The son of Greek immigrants, Lou Papan received
29 his Bachelor of Arts degree in economics in 1951 from Syracuse
30 University in New York and served his country with distinction as
31 a Sergeant in the United States Army during World War II and as
32 a First Lieutenant in the United States Air Force during the Korean
33 War; and he was also a Special Agent in the Federal Bureau of
34 Investigation in San Francisco and Chicago; and

35 WHEREAS, He has also been a real estate broker and general
36 insurance agent since 1958 and co-founded the Peninsula Bank of
37 Commerce in 1981; and in July 2000 he participated in the
38 Certificate Course for Senior Officials in State and Local
39 Government at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at
40 Harvard University; and



1 WHEREAS, In 1996 Assembly Member Papan received the
2 Ellis Island Medal of Honor, an award given by the National
3 Ethnic Coalition of Organizations to ethnic Americans who have
4 made significant contributions to this country; and

5 WHEREAS, He has two adult daughters, Gina, who is a Deputy
6 Attorney General, and Diane, who runs a private law practice, and
7 both of his daughters direct the John Papan Memorial Scholarship
8 Fund and John's Closet, the nonprofit charity established by Lou
9 Papan's late wife, Irene, and to date, John's Closet has provided
10 8,000 needy children with new clothing; and

11 WHEREAS, Through his public service activities he has made
12 a significant impact on the people of the 19th Assembly District
13 and throughout the state, and he will be greatly missed by those
14 individuals with whom he has been associated; now, therefore, be
15 it

16 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the
17 Members express their commendations and appreciation to their
18 colleague, the Honorable Louis J. Papan, for his outstanding
19 record of dedicated service to his constituents and to all of the
20 people of California, and convey to him best wishes for every
21 success in his future endeavors.

